

A house to house inspection was made at Upper Clatford. Minor nuisances were discovered, and after notices had been served, were satisfactorily abated.

I attach a report of your Inspector, and wish to acknowledge his valuable assistance throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. A. FARR.

ANDOVER,

21st February, 1906.

To

THE MEMBERS OF THE ANDOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my Annual Report as Inspector of Nuisances, for the year ending 31st December, 1905.

In June, together with your Medical Officer of Health, I made a house to house inspection throughout the village of Shipton, and a special report was presented to your Council.

A special inspection of Upper Clatford was also made.

Arising out of this report, and on your instructions, six statutory notices were served, and in each case the nuisance was abated without further proceedings.

In addition to systematic inspections throughout the district, special inspections have been made of the schools, and reported to you from time to time.

At Wade's farm house, Barton Stacey, the water from the well, which supplies the inmates, was found on analysis to be polluted with sewage. The owner immediately provided new drains and a new well, and the new supply was analysed and reported good.

On your instructions a sample of water from the well at the Plough Inn, was forwarded for analysis on December 16, and was reported contaminated.

Under the direction of your Medical Officer of Health, in all cases where infectious disease has been notified, disinfectants have been freely supplied.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN WORMALD.

Inspections.

Assisted by your Inspector I made a house to house inspection of Shipton Bellinger.

This village is situated on very light soil. The houses are built on ground which slopes gradually on either side to the water course, which is usually dry except in seasons of abnormal rainfall.

The house accommodation is still limited, many more good cottages being required.

The population in 1901 was 290, and estimated now at over 500. This great increase is due to its proximity to Tidworth and the large building works there.

We inspected all the houses except those belonging to the War Office. These latter being under systematic inspection by that authority, we did not deem it necessary to do so. The gardens of the houses in many instances are very untidy, being littered with paper, straw and old meat tins. This is not a condition which affects the health of the inhabitants, but it gives a very undesirable appearance to the place, an appearance that might be avoided by the exercise of a little care in disposing of this sort of refuse. The tins should be buried, or in those cases where the scavenger calls carried away by him, whilst the paper and straw could be burnt.

The Water Supply

Is good, being obtained from wells dug through the chalk, and having a depth varying from 35 to 40 feet, and either cement or brick stoned for 10 feet or more. The well tops were in good repair, with but few exceptions.

After a very rainy season the springs rise to an abnormal height, that in the lowest part of the village the water overflows at the top of the wells.

It is therefore most important that great care should be exercised in disposing of the contents of the privies, earth closets and house refuse to avoid any surface contamination of the water. A constant supply of water is at all times obtainable. When the wells run out in exceptionally dry seasons, water can be procured within reasonable distance of each house.

House Refuse and Slops.

The method of disposal varies, being heaped on the ground, put in a sunk pit, or dug into the garden. The two former ways are dangerous, and should not be permitted. Where there is garden ground, and few cottages do not possess enough, it should be placed in trenches and covered with earth.

The Dairies.

These and all appliances were clean and in good order.

Cowsheds

Were unsuitable and not in accordance with the requirements as contained in your Bye-laws.

The Bakehouses,

With the exception of a few minor defects were clean and in good order.

Closets

Are either pits dug out of the ground or the pail system is used, very few making use of ashes or earth to cover the excreta and soak up the urine. The pits are well away from the water supply, and though they are undesirable, are not in their present state injurious to health.

Scavenging.

The occupiers of cottages, where the ground in the garden is limited, have instituted a system of their own, employing a scavenger to empty their pails. This is now done once a week. Had this means not been adopted, it would have necessitated your Council undertaking a regular system of scavenging.

Notices were served on all cases where nuisances existed, and had the most gratifying result of securing their abatement.

The water supply at Wilton Terrace failed, owing to the well being too shallow. On visiting I found the temporary supply very inadequate. I immediately sent an urgent message to the owner requesting him to institute a satisfactory supply, and after considerable trouble, and a formal notice from your Council, the occupiers were supplied with sufficient for domestic purposes until the work of deepening the well had been satisfactorily completed.

A well at Grateley was found polluted and notice served upon the owner to clean it. This was done, but as it did not prove effective your Council recommended it should be closed.

Several other samples of water were sent to me for examination, all of which I was able to report as pure.

Bakehouses

Have all been inspected and found clean and in good order.

Factory Act.

The workshops have been inspected. The light, ventilation, and proper sanitary accommodation, being found sufficient.

- There are no out-workers in the district.

Midwives' Act.

This Act came into force this year, and in accordance with its provisions a Committee was appointed to deal with it, and at their request I made an inspection at the place of residence of each midwife who had given notice of her intention of practising in the district. I also investigated their mode of practice, and reported to you my conclusions :—

(1) The knowledge of the term "scrupulously clean" is not so well understood as could be desired, except by the two nurses who possess certificates after examination. Cleanliness in their practice consists of a limited amount of washing and changing of linen, omitting the essential aseptic details.

(2) As far as I can gather I believe they all wear dresses of a washable material, but I am not convinced that they use a clean dress for each case.

(3) Two possess appliances ; one understands the use of these, the other does not. If the possession of these were insisted upon it would only be complying with the letter of the Act. Most of them carry Coudy's fluid for disinfecting the hands, but I doubt very much if they take the trouble to use it. They all have an idea of the necessity for washing the hands before attending the labour. The lubricant used is vaseline or carbolised vaseline : some still use lard.

(4) A register of cases is kept by two of them ; others make short entries on pieces of paper or in copy books. Only one out of all registered could fill up the entries properly, especially those questions relating to the stages and complications of labour. I have explained to all the necessity of strictly keeping this record, and they have promised to try and do it.

(5) In the matter of education, with the exception of three, this is indifferent, reading and writing being very poor. I cannot think that all the women have notified their intention to practice ; if so, the number is unduly small for your district. The inducement is nil ; the confinements are so few in each district that a woman cannot make her living at it. The fees she obtains are so small, varying from 5s. to 10s. a case. This includes attendance at the time of confinement and a week after, doing all the washing of clothes, &c. Most of the Midwives complain that they are not paid the greater portion of their fees.

The Act itself is an excellent one, and will, I feel sure, prove of the greatest benefit to the mothers of your district. If registration has to be refused to any of these women it would cause hardship on many of those in your district which could not afford medical fee, and would place the responsibility of providing properly trained Midwives on the local authority, or they must be provided by private funds subscribed for the purpose. This will come sooner or later, and mean that your district will be divided into groups of villages, and nurses placed in charge of each group ; a change to be desired.

occurring at varying intervals between July and December, but I was unable to satisfactorily connect any case with it. In the larger number of the cases the milk supply was the same. After a very careful inspection of the dairy nothing was found likely to cause the disease. I advised all milk and water to be boiled, as well as the slates at the school to be disinfected.

At Redenham and Appleshaw, adjoining villages, there were eight cases amongst the school children. These occurred simultaneously, but the origin could not be traced. All the children attended the Appleshaw school, so I deemed it advisable to close it, and have the slates and school premises thoroughly disinfected. Application was made by the father of one of the children, who was a baker by trade, and had to keep away from the house, for his expenses of lodgings, but your Council could not entertain his application.

One case occurred at Shipton, and in this case a defective drain was discovered.

Erysipelas. Two cases were notified, one from Redenham and one from Longparish.

Measles. An epidemic of this disease prevailed amongst the scholars of your district, spreading from village to village. Fortunately it was only of a mild type, and only one death occurred.

Influenza. Was more prevalent than in former years, ten deaths were attributed to its cause.

Rotheln. A few cases occurred during April.

Small Pox. A notification was received from the Medical Officer of Health for Southampton that a passenger, who had been in contact with the disease, was proceeding to her home in this district.

Enteric. Advice was asked with regard to a visitor coming from Lincoln during the time of the Typhoid epidemic.

I paid a special visit to Barton Stacey to inspect some school children whom the Schoolmasters thought were suffering from some infectious disease.

In all cases of infectious diseases the patients were isolated as much as possible at their own houses, whilst all the children of the infected houses were excluded from school. After recovery the houses were thoroughly disinfected by your authority.

Isolation Hospital. Nothing further has been done to provide an isolation hospital, the same difficulty in regard to securing a site still exists, as mentioned in my previous reports.

On two occasions the military authorities have telegraphed asking if we had any provision for the isolation of infectious cases, and on my replying in the negative, have taken the patients into their own hospital.

Schools Closed. The following schools have been closed in consequence of Measles:— Longparish in September, Weyhill in December, Ampont in November, Wherwell in November, Barton Stacey in October, Penton in January, Chilbolton in January.

Communications were received from the Masters or Correspondents with regard to the health of the scholars in the following schools: Barton Stacey, Ampont, Shipton, Tidworth, Anna Valley, and from the Medical Department of the War Office at Tidworth.

Water Supply. There is no alteration in the method of the supply, which is sufficient for all purposes throughout the district. Complaint of the pollution of the well was received from Paper Mill Farm, Longparish. The water on examination proved unfit for drinking, and on investigating the cause, it was found contaminated by soakage from a defective sink drain. The owner at once had the drain repaired, and the well thoroughly cleaned out. The water on being analysed after this work had been completed was found pure.

House Accommodation A case of overcrowding was reported from Longparish, and satisfactorily dealt with. Two cottages were reported as unfit for human habitation at Fyfield. They were damp, especially the floor and the rear wall of the cottages. Their condition was remedied by relaying the floor with an impervious material, and by removing the earth that was in contact with the rear wall.

Sewage and Drainage. No alteration has taken place with regard to your district. The new houses have properly constructed cesspools, or the pail system is in use. The old system of middens exists in some places, but every endeavour is made to get the pail system adopted.

There is no scavenging by your authority within the district, the refuse being disposed of by the occupiers of the houses and cottages. In Shipton a voluntary system of scavenging has been adopted.

Slaughter Houses Have been under inspection, and no nuisance has arisen from them.

Dairies and Cowsheds. Great difficulty has been experienced in getting the Cowkeepers to register. An advertisement in the local paper did not meet with any response, so I wrote personally to those in the district carrying on this trade, and have received applications from eleven to register. Most of them are farmers supplying customers at a distance.

As compared with last year the Cowsheds showed an improvement with regard to their sanitary condition. The woodwork, &c., is more regularly limewashed. The floors are kept cleaner, and more care is taken in preventing accumulation of manure in the vicinity of the sheds.

More attention has been paid to ventilation, and most of the Cowsheds are ventilated by windows, shutters, roof ventilation, and air bricks, whilst the doors being made to open at the top half add to the means of ventilation.

The cows are kept cleaner, whilst the udders and milkers' hands are washed before milking.

The cans and vessels used are either boiled or very carefully washed each day

In this district it is the custom to turn the cows into the fields during the day, and in some cases they are kept in the open throughout the year.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. There were 28 cases notified : In Longparish nine ; In Hurstbourne Tarrant one ; In Ampost fourteen ; In Andover Rural four.

Cancer. Six deaths from this cause were registered, showing a decrease of four on last year.

Phthisis. Eight deaths were registered, a similar number to last year.

It should be more generally understood that disinfection of the rooms occupied during life by persons suffering from this disease should be carried out after their death. Your Authority are anxious and willing to undertake this work.

Scarlet Fever. This disease occurred at Tidworth and Hurstbourne Tarrant. The cases were all of a mild type. The only ones your Council were called upon to deal with occurred at Hurstbourne Tarrant and Upper Clatford. The others were isolated and treated by the War Office Authorities at their hospital at Tidworth.

Diphtheria. Twenty cases of this disease were notified, one having a fatal termination. The most troublesome outbreak was at Upper Clatford. The first case being a visitor from an infected village. This child attended school two days before the disease was discovered. This might have been the origin of the twelve cases

HEATH HOUSE, ANDOVER,
February 28, 1906.

To

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ANDOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

Population.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your district in 1905.

The population at the last Census was 9,290, and your district covers an area of 65,558 acres.

Birth Rate.

During the year 257 Births were registered. This gives a Birth Rate for the whole district of 27·6 per 1,000, compared with 23·8 per 1,000, the average of the previous ten years.

The number of births in the several localities was as follows :—

Longparish.....	87	or	22·6	per 1,000
Hurstbourne Tarrant.....	36	„	20·4	„
Amport.....	116	„	42·8	„
Andover Rural.....	18	„	17·07	„

In the Amport District the increase in the number of Births is due to the occupation of the New Barracks at Tidworth.

The percentage of Births in the purely Rural District is deplorably below the average.

During the year 112 Deaths have occurred. This gives a death rate of 12·05 per 1,000, the same as for the previous ten years.

Death Rate.

The number of Deaths in the several localities was as follows :—

Longparish.....	43	or	10·9	per 1,000
Hurstbourne Tarrant.....	18	„	11·5	„
Amport.....	28	„	10·2	„
Andover Rural	13	„	12·3	„

Eleven Deaths occurred in Public Institutions beyond the district, and are included in the total number of Deaths.

The number of persons over seventy who died in the several districts were as follows :—

Longparish.....	11	; average age	79·4	years
Hurstbourne Tarrant	6	„	76·6	„
Amport	9	„	77·3	„
Andover Rural	7	„	79·8	„

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Measles	1	Cancer	6
Diphtheria.....	1	Bronchitus and Pneumonia....	11
Influenza.....	10	Premature Birth ...	1
Diarrhoea.....	2	Heart Disease.....	17
Puerperal Fever.....	1	Accidents.....	3
Phthisis & Tubercular Diseases	8	Suicide.....	1

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 18 infants under one year of age died. This gives an infant mortality of 73·9 per 1,000 births registered, compared with 99·5, the average for the previous ten years.

The mortality is still higher than one would expect in a rural district.

In Longparish 4 died under 1 month ; 1 under 4 months ; and 2 under 8 months of age. Hurstbourne Tarrant : 1 under 1 month ; 1 under 6 months ; and 1 under 9 months of age. Amport : 4 under 1 month ; 1 under 4 months ; and 1 under 8 months of age. Andover Rural : 1 under 5 months ; and 1 under 7 months of age.